# MANILA PLAYED IN HARD LUCK

## Disappointment the End of the Fleet's Visit.

## CHOLERA SCARE TO BLAME

### Sailors Could Not Land and the Welcome Was Not Given.

**Great Hopes Had Been Based on the Coming of the Battleships—A Good and Successful Fight Had Been Made Against the Epidemic, and It Was Practically Over When the Fleet Arrived—The Loss of Prestige Felt Most in Manila—Wonderful Changes Achieved in the City Since the United States Took Possession of the Philippines—Life in Manila To-day.**

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U. S. BATTLE FLEET,
MANILA, P. I., Oct. 10.

This is a hard luck story. It's about the visit of the Atlantic fleet to Manila from October 2 to October 10 in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eight.

The unusual thing about the visit is that there wasn't any visit. The ships steamed in on October 2, and as much of Manila as could get afloat came out to see them. The ships steamed out again eight days later, and Manila didn't come out to see them go, but turned away her head, said nothing and did a lot of serious thinking.

During the week that the fleet lay at anchor in Manila Bay there were practically no dealings between city and fleet. Manila had been indiscreet enough to have the cholera. Although the epidemic was practically over, the new cases numbering from five to ten a day only, as a matter of precaution the sailors were not allowed to go ashore. A few officers were allowed to go ashore, it is true, but none was allowed to stay over night except by special permission. The sailormen who had to be sent ashore for the mails and on sundry errands had to carry their own drinking water with them. Orders were issued that no city water should be drunk and no food eaten except that which had been cooked on board the ships of the fleet.

Manila was cut off from the fleet at a time when the fleet meant much to her. The city has been having troubles, many and varied, besides the cholera—business troubles and political troubles. The one ray of gladness in this critical time was the coming of the Atlantic fleet.

As things turned out the arrival of the fleet simply added to the gloom. It was so thick that you could cut it. It was a Black Friday. Manila's cup of joy turned to one of bitterness. The city refused to be comforted.

She had raised about $120,000 to entertain the fleet. She had begun the erection of arches on her principal highway. Her merchants had laid in supplies, largely perishable. She had her lights and her bunting ready to be put up. She had grappled with the cholera and had ceased to worry about it. She had prepared herself for ten days of happiness, and it all came to naught! She was stunned, then angry, then sullen.

As the fleet sailed away Manila began to perk up a little. The fleet was due once more in Manila Bay, a month hence, for battle practice. Perhaps the cholera would all be over then. It was just a faint hope, but those on the fleet and most of those in the town did not take it seriously. On both sides the sentiment was that expressed in the song: "Ah doan' care ef yeh never comes back!"

Truly it was hard luck! And the cholera did it. Certainly Admiral Sperry was not going to take chances. One case of cholera on one of those sixteen battleships would not only be likely to disrupt the fleet and mar its progress but make it an object of the world's pity.

No commanding officer could be blamed for not caring to face such a situation; no commanding officer could be blamed for exercising every possible precaution to conserve the health of his men and to avoid criticism. Clearly Admiral Sperry was not to blame for issuing orders under wise medical advice, that would protect the health of his fleet.

This cholera scare has done undeserved harm to Manila nevertheless. There were some good features about the city's fight against cholera and some that were not good. The good features centred about a persistent struggle, good, though begun too late. The bad features centred about a neglect to wake up to the seriousness of the situation early.

FORMER FIGHT WITH CHOLERA.

Manila and the Government of the islands had not the excuse of unfamiliarity with cholera. An epidemic swept over the islands in 1902. There were 103,076 recorded cases then, with 66,837 known deaths. All parts of the archipelago were affected. It took hard work to put down the disease.

Occasionally since then cholera has appeared in the islands, just as it appears all over this part of the Orient. Sometimes it passes off without becoming epidemic and sometimes it does not.

As early as January last it was known that there was cholera in the north part of Luzon. Manila merchants were notified of its existence in at least three provinces. Word came after a few weeks that it had disappeared in Bulacan, Pampanga and Zambales provinces, but word also came that it had started up in Dagupan and was becoming more threatening in Pangasinan province.

A few cases appeared in Manila, but they disappeared and the health records as compiled and printed by Dr. Victor G. Heiser, Director of Health in the Department of the Interior, over which Commissioner Dean C. Worcester presides, show that from April to the end of June there were only six cases of cholera in Manila. Still it spread in the provinces to the north. It rapidly approached the city along the lines of travel.

The Government urged the various municipalities to fight the scourge. One province, Capiz, set aside $750 for this work and good results were reported. It was hoped that other municipalities and Provincial Governments would follow that example, but local self-government prevails among the Filipinos in these places, and that does not provide for war on disease. They are not used to such measures.

As Dr. Heiser said in his report of July 7 last, it must be remembered "that a large proportion of the people are ignorant and inaccessible; that much superstition exists; that one of the most popular beliefs is in the supposed injurious character of boiled water; that the cost of fuel is comparatively high, making sterile water and cooked food difficult for the masses to obtain; that the majority of people cling tenaciously to the mode of living which has been customary with them for hundreds of years; that food is conveyed to the mouth with the fingers from a receptacle used by all the household; that more than 60 per cent. of the population are afflicted with intestinal parasites; that with the possible exception of the supply for a few hundred thousand out of a total of 7,000,000 the drinking water is obtained from shallow surface wells; that physically the people are weak and unresistant, and that funds and skilled physicians needed to combat this condition are very limited."

All of this is true, but Dr. Heiser also said another true thing when he added: "The funds for fighting cholera now are also very meagre as compared with 1902."

EFFECT OF LIMITED FUNDS.

So they were, Dr. Heiser, and right there lies a large part of the fault. Who was to blame? Manila has no health department of its own. That is run by the Interior Department of the Insular Government. Dean C. Worcester is the head and Dr. Heiser manages the bureau and has done so for four years.

He has done notably good work, so much so that it was by the desire of the Insular Government that he went to America in July to read a paper at the tuberculosis congress, just when the cholera epidemic struck Manila with deadening force. Dr. A. J. McLaughlin, a young officer of the Marine Hospital Service, was left to grapple with the disease. As Dr. Heiser says, funds were scarce, very scarce.

No matter who was to blame, it is known that when the fight against cholera was begun in earnest in Manila, when the hospitals were overcrowded, when the natives were trying to smuggle their dead away, Manila was almost helpless. From the beginning of July the cases had multiplied with extraordinary rapidity. The fleet reception committee saw the danger and advised the Government to get busy. It did, but there was no complete organization, no adequate supply of disinfectants, no plan of action and the head of the Health Bureau was far away, in America!

Orders were sent to various cities in Japan, China and India to hurry more disinfectants to Manila no matter what the cost. Orders were also sent to the United States. To the general consternation, it was found that no such supplies could be secured then in the Orient. There had been a plan of attack adopted against the disease which was working out admirably, but with no disinfectants it was like going into action without a supply of ammunition.

Finally all supplies ran out. A graver crisis never confronted a city grappling with a scourge. Then somebody recalled that when Col. Maus was health officer here several years ago he caused to be purchased a large quantity of formaldehyde. It had never been used under the administration of his successor. The alleged excuse was that it was too expensive a material for disinfecting purposes, especially at a time when the desire was to economoize and to keep within the limit of appropriations.

The formaldehyde was brought out and it saved the day. On September 21 the steamship St. Patrick arrived from the States with 1,200 gallons of carbolic solution. That kept things going until October 6, when a large and adequate supply arrived from various cities, and Manila again rested easy.

In the meantime the situation was most grave. The hospitals were jammed. Deaths were numerous. Bodies of cholera victims were found floating in streams. Here and there newly made graves in out of the way places told the story of natives hiding the disease.

Manila had no health organization. The Government turned to the city authorities to help them out. All hands were enlisted in the war. All were aroused to the danger that the fleet visit might be turned into a fiasco and all recognized, that whether it was or not common humanity demanded the finest fight that could be made.

The city commissioners took hold of things in cooperation with the health officials and the Government. There was no appropriation available, but plain common sense was used. About 12 per cent. of the city police were put on sanitary inspection and taken from their regular work. About 100 sanitary inspectors were appointed.

Every house in the city was inspected every day. Every case of sickness was reported and special physicians were sent to examine. All unclean places were disinfected.

FIRE ENGINES FOR SANITARY WORK.

Manila has four chemical fire engines, and the city officials used them in the cleansing work. Whenever a case of cholera was found one of these engines was sent to the place and the house was doused outside and in with disinfectants. The dwellings were not burned and the natives began to report cases. Secret burials were given up.

The hospital situation became cleared when private hospitals began to set aside wards for cholera cases and the overcrowded San Lazaro Hospital was relieved of its congestion. The Bureau of Science, a magnificent institution established by the Americans, had been making researches into cholera germs and its services were effective.

A liberal policy of allowing relatives to stay with afflicted persons in hospitals was adopted. Relatives were also allowed to visit the sick every day. This had a reassuring effect upon the natives. Tracts and other information about cholera were given to the school children every day. They took all these home and the people began to be educated in means and methods of fighting the epidemic.

Finally the number of cases began to go down. Manila was cleaned up, a comprehensive system of fighting the disease was in force and soon the cases were numbered by the tens rather than the scores and late in September it began to look as if cholera would soon be a thing of the past.

There was absolutely no public fright over the disease. The fighting was effective. The great epidemic of 1902 disappeared in October. This would probably do the same.

Meantime the fleet was approaching rapidly. A wise policy of not concealing the truth about epidemics had prevailed, but it was to cost Manila heavily. The news of the situation was communicated to Admiral Sperry. As the fleet drew nearer the details became clearer.

Wireless telegraphy is a wonderful thing, as the people of Manila now realize. The work of erecting arches, of providing entertainments on a large scale, of putting up decorations, of preparing plans for extending the glad hand and of receiving the glad hand just when that exchange of civilities was needed most in the islands went on until it became known that Admiral Sperry would grant no shore liberty to the men and that the officers would not be allowed to stay ashore over night except in unusual cases, that no food or drink must be purchased ashore, and then Manila—well, Manila fell in a heap.

She could not deny that she had cholera. She said that it was practically all over; that all drinking water in public places was sterile; that all filth had been cleaned up; that all the ice in the city was made by the army in the splendid cold storage plant it runs and came from artesian water found 750 feet deep; that there really was no danger; that it was absurd to make these restrictions; that Admiral Sperry was just a mean thing, so there; that if it was all to end this way she was sorry the fleet had come, &c. In other words, she acted as any half-hysterical, grievously disappointed woman would have done, and she remained sullen until the fleet sailed away.

FEW AMERICANS ATTACKED.

Nevertheless up to October 1 there were more than five hundred cases of cholera, with more than three hundred deaths in Manila, most of them in the last three months, and in the islands the cases numbered 21,456, with 13,611 deaths.

Nor did it avail Manila anything to point out that this epidemic was not nearly so large as that of 1902; that the death rate in the cities was unusually low for the disease, being about 55 per cent., when often it has gone to 90 per cent.; that very few whites were attacked with the disease.

All this showing, with the great fight that has been made—and that fight ought to be long remembered in the annals of Manila—convinced the people that there was no danger in allowing the most friendly relations between the ships and the shore, but Admiral Sperry decided otherwise. Manila really didn't blame him for it, either.

What hurt Manila most was not the loss of money; Americans stand up to that gaff like true sports. It was the loss of prestige.

A CHANGED MANILA.

But enough of the gloomy side of the situation. It is pleasanter to contemplate what has been done by the Americans in the last ten years.

There were men on this fleet who came here right after American guns proclaimed this territory American and the United States paid Spain $20,000,000 for it. What a change to-day!

Then you could scarcely go on horseback through some streets in Manila. The highways were lighted with oil lamps. There were no signs over the shops on the Escolta. You had to go into a store and haul down the goods to see if they had what you wanted.

A miserable street car hauled by diminutive ponies occasionally dragged its way through the street. The walled city was almost impassable. Filth was evident everywhere.

Now Manila is modern. It still has the cheerless, gray, musty appearance of the old days, and the mediæval architecture helps this out; but in five years as much building has been done as there was in fifty years before.

The streets are clean and well paved. One of the best trolley systems in existence anywhere is in operation. An up to date fire department, installed by the late Hugh Bonner, is in operation. It is the pride not only of Manila but of the entire Orient.

A modern police department exists. Modern sanitary conditions prevail. Parks have been developed. The Government is building a new harbor system so that vessels may come right up to the wharves inside the breakwater, and a new business city will be built with the Custom House as the central feature.

The walls of the old city have been punctured and easy egress and ingress is now afforded. Electric lights are everywhere. It is a modern city with ancient settings and it is as picturesque a place as one can find.

Education in English has so spread that children speak with you in the streets in your own language. Within a year even the modern institution of bootblacks has been established, and it is one of the sights of Manila to see a native getting his old shoes shined when the money he has to pay for it would help to fill his empty stomach.

A complete system of sewers is being established in the city. The new supply of pure water from the hills twenty-five miles away will be in operation in November. All over the islands something like $5,000,000 a year is being spent for school houses, good roads and other public improvements.

Nearly 1,200 miles of railroad are being finished in the various islands, the interest guaranteed by the Government, and the Government is paying its own expenses. One could fill pages with the stories of the improvements. They are making the Philippines a livable place. Why, nearly 5,000 shade trees have been set out in Manila alone recently.

WORK OF THE BUREAU OF SCIENCE.

One work in the Philippines, purely American, has escaped general attention. It's the kind that's done with a microscope and so doesn't attract public notice like building bridges and roads and sewers and water works and barbor improvements. It is the work of what is called the Bureau of Science

That work has been worth millions to the Philippines. It grew out of the necessity of examining water supplies, of making analyses of foods, of investigating agricultural problems, making vaccine virus and serums for certain diseases, as well as studying insect pests and making assays of mineral products.

Gradually all these functions and many more were centred in one institution to investigate the natural resources of the islands, to study diseases, to standardize weights and measures and to form a great scientific library. There has been all sorts of chemical work done for the benefit of agriculture.

All kinds of germs have been studied, cholera, plague, dengue, surra, rinderpest and the like, and serums have been prepared for them. The ravages of rinderpest have been stopped largely through this work. Vaccine virus as fine as any in the world has been produced in large quantities. More than 60,000 botanical specimens have been collected.

A fine scientific journal is published and has made itself known throughout the world. Amœbic dysentery, which carried off thousands of Americans in the early days, has been fought down. Study is now going on to fight the intestinal parasites that afflict nearly 75 per cent. of the Filipinos.

Do you wonder that the Filipinos have a reputation for being lazy? It isn't laziness. In plain English it is a case of worms. The Filipino won't be good for much either in the way of government or of industry until you get those worms out of his system. Well, the Bureau of Science is going after 'em.

Then the bureau has been making investigation into the needs of paper making, and it thinks it has solved the problem in a grass fibre found here that will bring relief to the serious condition that confronts publishers and other consumers of paper in large quantities. That of itself may be sufficient reward for the moderate sum expended in this useful institution. One regrets that space will not allow more mention in detail of its great advantage to these islands.

LIFE IN MANILA.

But what about life in Manila and the Philippines? It has its bright and dark sides still.

They tell you out here that the climate isn't really bad. Perhaps not, but you have to get used to it. They may tell you that only twice in forty years has the temperature reached 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Possibly so, but you ought to know that the average humidity is 78 per cent., and if you could see Manila steaming in its marsh lands on a sweltering day, especially after one of those terrible rains here, you wouldn't care much what the records said about the thermometer.

Of course it is delightful up in the mountains. Of course the winter here is as enjoyable as it is in Havana, and that is saying a great deal. But after all a tropical climate is a tropical climate the world over and you've simply got to get used to it. Then you may be able to say the climate is all right, but one week's stay won't do it, nor will six months stay do it any better.

Manila has still its attractive Malecon drive along the waterfront, and evenings you can go to the Luneta and circle about in your carriage while the famous constabulary band, led by an American negro, gives you as fine band music as you ever heard. They say that band plays "The Star Spangled Banner" better than any other in the world. Certainly it plays it differently from even the Australian bands.

There is a quick, dashy movement in certain parts and then a corresponding deliberative movement in others. The shading is exquisite in places and the close of the time most impressive. However, the effect is of the theatrical kind, and it is a question if the national air is improved with this juggling with certain bars.

It is impressive to see thousands of the natives with heads bared and to see all traffic stopped while that tune is played at the close of a delightfully cool evening. A typhoon tore down the band stand two nights after the fleet arrived. The last piece of music played there was "The Star Spangled Banner."

Of course Manila is as picturesque as ever. The river life on the Pasig is simply fascinating. The river seems as crowded as the Thames at London. All sorts of traffic is going on up and down. The old and new in every form of navigation is presented.

In the city itself the water buffaloes drag their carts about and do the heavy dray work. The sprightly Filipino pony furnishes transportation for the family of means and for the lowly carametta, as the town hacks are known.

Home life, with the open balconies and the living apartments built high in the air to escape the marshy ground's influences, is attractive. The place is burdened with mosquitoes, but the dwellers know how to fight them. Dampness pervades everything for a good part of the time, but there is always an effective way of getting along if you know how.

Social life is charming, especially in the foreign colony, and altogether if you accommodate yourself to circumstances Manila, even Manila, down on the marshes and away from the cool hills, is really a delightful place in which to live.

## *FOREIGN DEVILS MISBEHAVE.*

**Violate Tombs, Deface and Even Steal China's Sacred Monuments.**

The following letter, received by the secretary of the American Asiatic Association and published in the *Journal* of that body, indicates that the "foreign devils" in China occasionally conduct themselves in a manner to earn that title. The letter is signed by Frederick McCormick and is dated Pekin, September 2, 1908. It reads:

DEAR SIR: A great increase in vandalism has occurred in China since 1906, especially in North China. Some of the most celebrated and valuable monuments, sculptures, &c., are threatened with destruction. This can be said of the monoliths at the Ming Tombs to the north of Pekin, where the statues in the famous avenue of stone images have been defaced and where depredations of images, carvings, &c., by visitors are increasing.

During 1907 a foreigner abroad, otherwise respected, financed an expedition to Sian-fu in the province of Shensi. The head of the expedition asserted afterward that his primary object had been to filch the Nestorian Tablet and float it away by the Wei and Yellow rivers. The enterprise failed owing to the presence of foreign residents at Sian-fu and the precautions of the Governor of Shensi, who removed the monument into the city of Sian-fu.

Recently one of the Government boards called the attention of the throne to foreign vandalism in the Temple of Heaven enclosure at Pekin. Last year foreign trespassers committed outrages there which attracted the attention of the throne. About the same time the depredations of foreigners caused the temple Ta-Kao-tien in Pekin to be closed to visitors.

The destruction of the carvings around the base of the famous marble tope in the Yellow Temple begun before 1900 has continued.

Depredation is apparently accelerated by the visible destruction performed by foreigners in 1900. Other instances than the above might be cited if required.

At the present rate of progress there is danger that the monuments that are to be the chief attraction of China's future parks, museums and historic shrines will be effectually destroyed within a few years.

The improvement of railway connections with Europe during the last year has been the means of this rapid development of vandalism. The destruction at the Ming Tombs has occurred since the opening of the railway to Nan-kou, little more than a year ago. In a short time a railway will be opened to the Tomb of Confucius, where similar outrage will most certainly be committed if something is not done to prevent it.

The formation of a society which shall receive sufficient prominence to give it power to impress upon travellers and other visitors that vandalism in China has reached a state of aggravated grievance would be a means toward its arrest.

# WITH THE COLLEGE ATHLETES

## *DOINGS IN THE FIELD OF SPORT IN EAST AND WEST.*

**Outdoor Tests for Amherst Freshmen—Improvement After Short Time—Michigan Ready to Return to Conference Fold—Drill at Cornell.**

The tests at Amherst conducted for the entering class present some interesting results. They are conducted out of doors for as long a time as the weather permits. Varied after a time with long walks, soccer and outdoor basketball, the men are kept in the air until it is extremely cold. Then they get their turn at gymnasium exercising.

This work is required, and all the members of the class have to take part in it. By these methods full statistics can easily be got, and they form the basis for statements that are made from time to time by the department of physical education at Amherst. The tests are made by means of three athletic events—the 100 yard run, the running broad jump and putting the twelve pound shot. These competitions were chosen as showing the speed, strength of the legs, strength of the arms and ability to coordinate muscularly, which is the chief requisite in sports.

Physical training is required at Amherst for all classes for the first three years. Any man who wants to get his degree must satisfy the physical director of his physical fitness. The fall work is conducted on the athletic field by way of an entrance examination. It shows the instructor what are the capabilities of his men and what they most need, which is better even than the entrance examination in studies.

In running 100 yards a performance better than 12 2-5 seconds is required before any points may be scored. In the broad jump 11 feet 8 inches is the lowest for which points may be counted. For the shotput the minimum is 18 feet 3 inches. Marks of 100 per cent. are awarded for running 100 yards in 10 2-5 seconds, clearing 20 feet in the broad jump or putting the shot 48 feet. The proportions do not appear to be very clear, because putting the shot that distance is not so good as running 100 yards in two-fifths worse than even time. There is a good comparison between the feats in the shotput and the broad jump.

At the first test this year it was found that the average time for running the dash was 13 4-5 seconds. The freshmen leaped on the average 15 feet 1 inch. The shotput figured out 26 feet 6 inches to the man. These performances are very much below what is to be expected from freshmen who have had any experience of athletics at all in their public schools, and serve to show that the average freshman entering Amherst is not very much developed in sports. However, as this category probably excludes the men who were trying for football, and who necessarily would be better, it is impossible to characterize them as standard performances for the whole class.

THE SECOND TEST.

At the end of five weeks of training the same tests were repeated. The average time for running 100 yards had come down 1 2-5 seconds to 12 2-5 seconds, the point at which scoring began. The broad jumped increased on the average three inches. The shotput made a gain of a foot on the average. The scoring of 18 feet in the shotput gives zero, and each three inches increase adds 1 per cent. For the broad jump every inch over 11 feet 8 inches adds 1 per cent. On the basis of these percentage figures the first test of the class was 25.5 on a basis of 100 and the second 29.9.

The bulletin of the work sets forth: "The gains thus recorded are apparent at a glance even for so short a period of training, and it should be said that in the second test the men ran against a very strong wind. The nature of this test cultivates a spirit of friendly rivalry which brings out the best ability of each man. Furthermore a list of the ten best records is posted and in striving to make the first ten each man unconsciously puts forth his best efforts. It is an interesting fact that while in the first test only one man scored above 50 per cent., in the second test nine men were above 50 per cent. Some of the individual gains were great, some men more than doubling their records. It is believed that an average gain of 4.4 per cent. for only five weeks work is enough incentive to continue this work.

"It is found that the men who have had the least training before entering college, and therefore most in need of it, make the greatest gains in their records. The natural athletes require no urging to work out of doors and so come to college better developed than the studiously inclined. The tendency of these men, however, is to specialize in the event for which they are best fitted by nature. This will tend to give them development only along certain lines and not all around. The work at Amherst is so divided as to give the man the even development which is desired.

"It is a source of satisfaction to note that the man who made the best record in each test was not the man who did the best in any one event but scored his points by general all round ability. The man who made the fastest time in the 100 yard run finished third in the first ten, the best broad jumper came in second, and the man who made the record shotput was tenth. These facts would seem to point in favor of the even development instead of allowing a man to specialize according to his tastes.

"For some years statistics have been kept on the height, weight and lung capacity of the men thus training, and the effects of the outdoor exercise and invigorating air have produced results which would seem incredible were they not supported by the actual figures to prove them."

MICHIGAN SWINGS BACK.

The athletic rules at the University of Michigan recently were revised, ostensibly to take the place of those of the conference, which Michigan repudiated more than a year ago. However, the new code of rules, looked at with some care, bears a great resemblance to the regulations of the conference, in spirit if not in form. The main variance from the conference rules is that the retroactive clause of the three year rule is killed. That is to say, by the conference rules all athletes are limited to three years of varsity competition in sports, and that rule was made to apply at the time it was passed to all men then in college. Several of Michigan's men would have been disqualified had the Wolverines remained in the conference, and so they got out. Presumably it was believed that this three year rule was a plot.

By the end of the present academic year there will be in Michigan hardly a man who would have been barred from competition under the three year rule at the time it was passed. Furthermore, Michigan now has returned in effect to a three year rule, the same as all the others, with minor provisos that do not affect any games that may be played with any except non-conference colleges. From the terms of the new rules it looks very much as if Michigan is preparing to swing back into the good old traces.

Here are the rules: "Except as below provided, no student shall participate in intercollegiate athletics for more than three years in aggregate, and any member of a university team who plays during any part of an intercollegiate contest does thereby participate in that sport for the year.

"Exceptions: 1. Playing on freshman teams shall not be counted in the three years allowed; 2, students affected by the retroactive feature of the three years rule when adopted by the conference shall be allowed to compete a fourth year if otherwise eligible; 3, in view of the fact that the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America (of which the University of Michigan is a member) allows competition for four years, members of teams, if otherwise eligible, may compete a fourth year at meetings under the direction of said association, and 4, in intercollegiate athletic contests with colleges allowing participation for four years a fourth year shall be allowed members of the University of Michigan.

"The football team shall be allowed to start preliminary training two weeks before college opens."

There aren't any very marked differences between these regulations and what the conference provided and it appears very much as if within the next year or so Michigan could easily slip back and become a conference college without altering its rules at all. That this is what is planned no one seems able to say.

CORNELL'S DRILL HINDRANCE.

A very strong objection is made at Cornell to the system of drill. Only a certain small number may be excused from this drill for athletics and the objection is made that the drill kills the chances of getting many men interested in athletics. The announcement of the small number of freshmen excused called forth an editorial statement by the *Cornell Daily Sun*:

"We believe that all will concede that if intercollegiate athletics are worthy of existence they are worthy of one's best strivings and that premiership in athletics should go to the deserving as in other things; and yet we find that under the present system our promising material is largely a matter for the discard. Under the unbreakable drill regulations only the same limited number are available for use in developing our teams. The increase in numbers and quality of our athletes must be lost and dissipated in the quickstep upon the armory green.

"A tally shows that only thirty-five men may be excused for track and cross-country combined and only thirty men for football. To any one familiar with these sports these numbers would be ridiculously funny if at the same time they did not impress their serious import to our athletic future. The intense competition in these branches demands that every possibility for good material be given a thorough trying out so that the best, proven worthy of its name by long and hard competition, may be the ultimate makeup of the team.

"At present aside from being unable to take advantage of all the possible candidates the coaches are unable even to take the best of those presenting themselves. In the limited time allowed for the selection of the men it is impossible for them to judge with any great degree of correctness as to the relative ability of the men competing for the various events or positions. They are compelled, too, in order to avoid any appearance of favoritism, to take men who are temporarily superior even though their judgment says that other men will outdo them after a specified time of training.

"And so good men are apparently turned down; they lose interest which they may never acquire again. Altogether our athletic gain is nonplussed by a system which is of itself good but which has this one fault at least. We submit the situation to the powers that be, asking for a fair consideration as to the problem and possible remedies. While not denying the advantages of drill it would seem at first blush as though none of these would be lost by excusing a larger number of men to take part in the more important sports. No disposition has ever been shown by the coaches to be unreasonable in the matter, and surely no will deny that the physical advantages accruing to a man at work daily under competent direction is far greater than any to be gained by 'toting' a gun three times a week for an hour."

There certainly can be little question that men who are obliged to report every day in the week for football or running practice ought to derive more benefit from that than from exercising indoors with a gun. In view of the fact that coaches compel the students to attend their practice regularly or else lose their rights to escape drill there can be no question of proper jurisdiction over the students, which is a main argument against athletics as exercise.

## *FISHING FOR SPONGES.*

**Greek Divers of Florida Coast—Sky-glass and Rake Method of Cubans.**

*From the Florida Times-Journal.*

There are two places where sponge fishing can best be studied—Tarpon Springs, on the west coast of Florida, and Batabano, on the south coast of Cuba. In Florida the business is conducted with all the ceremony and science which the money of a New York corporation can control. In Cuba on the contrary, it is pursued with all the primitiveness and leisure associated with sponge fishing since classic times.

In Florida the fishing is mostly done by professional divers, Greeks who have migrated from the Old World to the new to follow their calling. In the Greek quarter at Tarpon you may see Greek houses, Greek costumes and hear the Greek language. Even the boats from which the divers work, boats of immense strength, 40 feet by 10 feet, are brought from Greece.

The divers in the Gulf wear diving suits of the most modern and perfect make. The dress is heavily weighted with lead and leaden soled shoes are worn. The men carry only a large sponge bag.

The sponges are found at about a hundred feet, and the diver walks along, gathering them as he goes.

The boat follows him on the surface, pumping fresh air to him and hauling up the full and lowering the empty bags. The diver often remains down for two or three hours, continually walking and gathering. The diving suits are so perfect and the water so clear there is little risk except from sharks. These monsters infest the Gulf waters and many are the thrilling encounters the divers report.

The divers carry no weapons and a knife would be worse than useless. If one shark was driven off or even killed the first trace of blood would bring a dozen more circling around. The suits are so heavy it is impossible to move away. The only course when a maneater appears on the scene is to remain absolutely still, for the shark will not touch anything it thinks dead. This is a counsel of perfection, for it requires more than ordinary nerve to remain motionless with a maneater nosing around.

At Batabano the Cuban fishermen still employ the old sky glass and rake methods which were in vogue in Florida also before the latest commercializing methods revolutionized the industry. The Cuban goes out in a small chalupa, a cross between a river boat and a canoe, carrying his professional instruments. These latter drop a pole twenty to fifty feet long fitted at the end with a three pronged rake, and a large bucket from which the bottom has been knocked out and substituted by a piece of ordinary window glass. By means of this glass the sponges can be distinctly seen on the bottom of the sea.

With no small skill the rake is brought into play, the sponge harpooned and the catch brought to the surface. The whole process of sponge fishing à la Cubano is tedious and trying and it requires a patience and a practice beyond belief. To maintain oneself in a shallow skiff without upsetting and at the same time to spy out sponges through the glass bottom of an inverted bucket and further to acquire those sponges on the end of a fifty foot pole is a complication of arts.

The sponge being an animal, it is necessary to kill it. This is done by exposing it for several hours on the broad decks of the boats, in summer they soon die, but in winter it takes a long time owing to the weaker force of the sun. After death they are brought ashore and put in the cradles. These are enclosures made on the seashore by setting stakes a little apart from each other. The ebb and flow of the tide wash the animal matter from the sponge and the work is completed by manual labor. They are then taken to the packing house, graded, strung, baled and despatched to their destination.